



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

TENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 17, 2025

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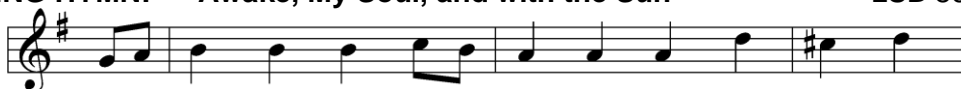
**PRELUDE:**                    **“Prelude from *Suite pour orgue*”**  
   ~Denis Bédard

Organ

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN:    “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”**

LSB 868



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly  
2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science  
3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -  
5 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest this day All I de -  
6 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and  
as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing  
fleshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from  
sign or do or say That all my pow'rs with  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
all their might In Thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(based on Col. 1:13)*

**L:**        In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**P:**        **We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Spirit  
He has given us.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** *(based on Col. 1:21 ff)*

**L:**        Once we were separated from God. The sinful things we did, the holy things we left  
undone, showed us for the people which we are by nature. But Christ has brought  
us back to God by dying in His body on the cross. He did this so that we could come  
into God's presence without sin, fault or blame.

**P:**        **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to  
everlasting life. Amen.**

**[L]:** God has made you alive with Christ. He forgives all your failures. He did this by erasing the charges that were brought against you. He took the charges away by nailing them to the cross of Jesus. In His name and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins. Amen.

### FIRST READING: *Colossians 4:2-6*

Keep praying. Pay attention when you offer prayers of thanksgiving. At the same time also pray for us. Pray that God will give us an opportunity to speak the word so that we may tell the mystery about Christ. It is because of this mystery that I am a prisoner. Pray that I may make this mystery as clear as possible. This is what I have to do.

Be wise in the way you act toward those who are outside the Christian faith. Make the most of your opportunities.

Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone. -GW®

### HYMN OF PRAISE: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" LSB 793

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your  
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple

trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,

Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30 am

## HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 12:54-59*

Jesus said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud coming up in the west, you immediately say, 'There's going to be a rainstorm,' and it happens. When you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and that's what happens. You hypocrites! You can forecast the weather by judging the appearance of earth and sky. But for some reason you don't know how to judge the time in which you're living. So why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? For instance, when an opponent brings you to court in front of a ruler, do your best to settle with him before you get there. Otherwise, he will drag you in front of a judge. The judge will hand you over to an officer who will throw you into prison. I can guarantee that you won't get out until you pay every penny of your fine." -GW®

## SERMON HYMN: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

LSB 826



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,  
3 If you can - not be a watch - man, Stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,  
4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
You can tell the love of Je - sus, You can say He died for all.  
Point - ing out the path to heav - en, Of - f'ring life and peace to all,  
While the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing And the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed With the judg - ment's dread a - larms,  
With your prayers and with your boun - ties You can do what God com - mands;  
Take the task He gives you glad - ly, Let His work your plea - sure be;

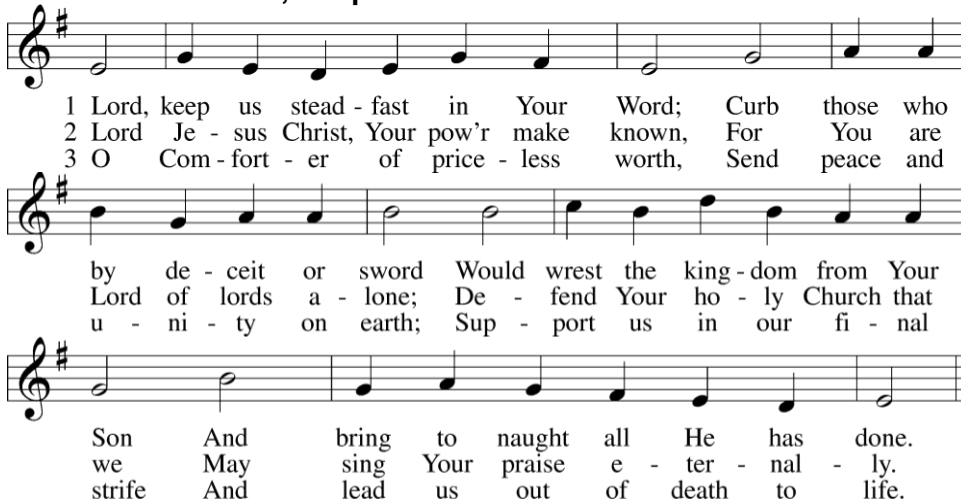


Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"  
You can lead the lit - tle chil - dren To the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.  
You can be like faith - ful Aar - on, Hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.  
An - swer quick - ly when He call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

## MESSAGE: "Sinking down Roots...Making the Most of It" Col. 4:2-6

## HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and  
by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal  
Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH: *(based on Col. 1:15)*

**[L]:** Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. He is the head of the church which is His body and with the church on earth and in heaven we confess the faith once and for all delivered to the saints

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *(\*catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING:** *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maralee at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org) or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

**CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:** *(based on Col. 3:17)*

**[L]:** Receive these our gifts, O Lord, and fund ministry through them that enables us in Word and deed to do all things in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him.

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **✠ Holy Communion ✠**

***The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.***

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

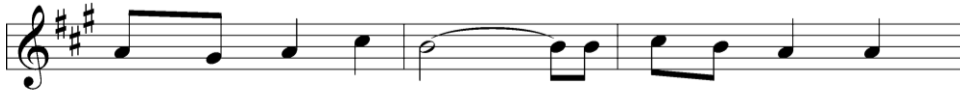
*In our 9:30 & 11:00 am services, we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.*

# DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

LSB 720



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No  
 2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And  
 4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are  
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as  
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when  
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.  
 we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"  
 You are near And seek where You are found.  
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

## "There is a Redeemer"

LSB 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
 Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
 There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



*Refrain*  
 Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING: (based on Col. 3:2)

**[L]:** Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory. Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN: “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB 924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

### POSTLUDE: “Vivace from Concerto in G Major” ~Johann Gottfried Walther

Organ



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“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” LSB 868

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711.

Tune: François H. Barthélémon, 1741-1808; setting: *Lutheran Worship*, 1982. Text and tune: Public domain.

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” LSB 793

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Tune: John Goss, 1800-80 Text and Tune: Public domain



"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying" LSB 826

Text: Daniel March, 1816-1909, sts. 1-2, 4, alt.; unknown, st. 3, alt.

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96. Text and music: Public domain

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." LSB 655

Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug.

Text and music: Public domain.

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight LSB 720

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-71, alt. Tune: Mary Haugen, b. 1950.

Text: Public domain. Music: © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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"There Is a Redeemer" LSB 971

CCLI Song No. 11483. Melody Green-Sievrigh.

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"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LSB 924

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and music: Public domain



## **SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle

Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez

Liturgist...Karl Fink

Organist 8:00 & 9:30...Robert Bottoms

Children's Message...Alissa Brege

9:30...Chris Cale

11:00...Nick Davies

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Pianist 11:00...Trinity Alwood



**If You're a Visitor**, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.



Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

**Bethany Lutheran Church** and its Ministries are found at: [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

**Bethany Lutheran School** information can be found by visiting their website at:  
[www.bethanylutheran.org/school/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/)

**Bethany Preschool's** website: [www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/)

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>



## **DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!**

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION\*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

\*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

**<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>**



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right:

# SERVANT LEADER TEAM: SPIRITUAL LIFE

*Team one!*

## ACC: ACOLYTE, CRUCIFER, AND COMMUNION

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- assist in distribution of Communion (set up altar/table)
- assist in Baptism liturgy (prepare for the baptism)
- support and train acolytes and crucifers
- support worship staff with planning and logistics
- other duties assigned by worship leaders

4

MEETINGS  
PER YEAR

75-90

MINUTES OF  
TRAINING

ARRIVE

30

MINUTES BEFORE  
ASSIGNED SERVICES

∞

UNLIMITED  
OPEN SLOTS